

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 are pending.

Claims 2-6 remain unchanged.

Claims 1 and 7 are amended herein.

The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for beating and rolling a food dough belt conveyed between rolling members, comprising:

a first rolling member having a plurality of rolling rollers which move in an endless orbit and which can move sequentially upstream from downstream and ~~or~~ downstream from upstream along the food dough belt, while each rolling roller is rotating about the axis of the rolling roller,

a second rolling member conveying the food dough belt thereon, and

a control apparatus for controlling the speed of the movement and the speed of the rotation of the rolling rollers,

wherein when the first rolling member moves sequentially upstream from downstream, the respective rolling rollers are controlled so as to be rotated in the reverse direction of the rotation of the second rolling member, and

wherein when the first roller member moves sequentially downstream from upstream, the respective rolling rollers are controlled so as to be rotated in the same direction as the rotation of the second rolling member, and

wherein the speed of the rotation of the rolling rollers can be controlled independently from the speed of the movement of the rolling rollers.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the peripheral speed V_3 of the rolling rollers is made to be equal to or almost equal to the surface speed of the food dough belt by the control apparatus.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first rolling member comprises a planetary roller mechanism or a planetary gear mechanism

4. (Original) An apparatus according to any of claim 1, wherein the second rolling member comprises a conveying roller with a large diameter than that of the rolling rollers.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to any of claim 1, wherein the second rolling member includes a conveying roller and a supplying conveyer, and therebetween a space is arranged for releasing gas from the lower part of the food dough belt.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to any of claim 1, wherein the vertical surface passing through the central axis of the first rolling member is arranged upstream of the vertical surface that passes through the central axis of the second rolling member.

7. (Currently amended) A method for beating and rolling a food dough belt which is conveyed in accordance with a plurality of rolling rollers which move in an endless orbit and which can move sequentially upstream from downstream and ~~or~~ downstream from upstream along the food dough belt, while each rolling roller rotates about the axis of the rolling roller,

characterized by controlling the number of beats by controlling the speed of the movement and the speed of the rotation of the rolling rollers,

wherein when the first rolling member moves sequentially upstream from downstream, the respective rolling rollers are controlled so as to be rotated in the reverse direction of the rotation of a second rolling member for conveying the food dough belt thereon, and

wherein when the first rolling member moves sequentially downstream from upstream, the respective rolling rollers are controlled so as to be rotated in the same direction as the rotation of the second rolling member, and

wherein the speed of the rotation of the rolling rollers can be controlled independently from the speed of the movement of the rolling rollers.